



# Your Guide to Planning a Neighborhood Garage Sale Day

Seattle  
Public  
Utilities

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## What is a neighborhood garage sale day?

"One person's junk is another person's treasure." Nowhere is this more obvious than at a garage sale. A typical garage sale - clothing, furniture, sports equipment, pots and pans, silverware, books, records ...always "slightly used but still in good condition" - is a great way to furnish your house or clothe your children or pick up new reading material at a reasonable price.

Garage sales also promote a cleaner, less wasteful environment. Instead of throwing something useful away, things sold at garage sales have a second (or even third and fourth) life with a new owner.

### ***Here's a tip-***

*Hundreds of shoppers may tour your neighborhood during your garage sale event... don't miss the opportunity to market membership in your organization. Supply info about your group and how to volunteer or become a member.*

Neighborhood garage sale day events take the concept one step further by creating a community event that generates excitement, maximizes advertising and broadens the customer base. In a community-wide garage sale event, households and organizations within a specific geographic area, all hold individual garage and yard sales on the same day. Dozens of homeowners may participate. Local churches, schools or other groups might hold large rummage sales on the same day. A flea market may be set up in a parking lot or large hall. Shoppers obtain a map and

list of addresses in order to tour the neighborhood sales.

By promoting a variety of sales in one neighborhood on one specific day, neighborhood garage sale days help get the word out to more people and help ensure more successful sales.

This guide is designed to help your community group organize a garage sale day in your neighborhood. The strategies outlined are based in large part on "Greenwood Garage Sale Day" an event organized by the Phinney Neighborhood Association (PNA), a non-profit neighborhood center located in Seattle. We also researched similar events from other neighborhoods to provide good tips.

We encourage you to consider a garage sale day for your community. It can be an excellent fundraising opportunity for your organization and contributes to a better environment for all of us.

## **Benefits of a neighborhood garage sale day**

**For participants:**

- ✦ Chance to earn money
- ✦ Clean up house and yard
- ✦ Make a charitable contribution
- ✦ Learn about reuse and recycling
- ✦ Share cost of advertising
- ✦ Closer relationships between neighbors

**For the sponsoring organization:**

- ✦ Fundraiser
- ✦ Promote "community"
- ✦ Prevent dumping
- ✦ Encourage sustainable lifestyles
- ✦ Promote closer ties to area businesses

## Picking the date

When selecting a date for your neighborhood garage sale event, keep two things in mind. First, give your group adequate time to organize the event. Two to three month's lead-time will allow time for publicity, recruitment of participants and co-sponsors. You will need to allow more planning time for the first time event than you will need in subsequent years.

Next, choose your date carefully not to conflict with other already scheduled events in your neighborhood such as annual auctions, school walk-a-thons, community festivals, etc. Check to see that other neighborhood garage sale days are not being held. PNA's "Greenwood Garage Sale Day," for instance, is held on the fourth Saturday in April. Wedgwood Community Council's annual "Wedgwood Garage Sale" is the last weekend in July.

When neighborhood sales are spread throughout the season, shoppers from other areas will be available to visit your sale. The date you select may well become an annual date, so thinking ahead about factors such as weather conditions and competing events will pay off in years to come.

### ***Here's a tip-***

*Possible co-sponsors could include schools, local newspapers, radio stations, non-profits, chamber of commerce, city sponsored clean-up programs.*

## Co-sponsors maximize success

Sharing sponsorship can be an important way to add to the success of your sale, helping to spread the word and attracting more shoppers.

The PNA originally selected an April date because it was the date of the Greenwood Elementary School's annual rummage sale. The school PTA was an original co-sponsor. PNA benefited because we knew that at least one major sale would be scheduled, attracting shoppers to the neighborhood. The school benefited because their sale acted as an "anchor" for the garage sale day. They were able to save on classified advertising by allowing the PNA to take care of it. The PTA also received donations of goods from neighbors who wanted to clean out unwanted items, but weren't interested in having their own garage sale.

Actively seek a co-sponsor who can help your organization with clean up after the sale. Even the most successful sales will have things left which can't be sold. Don't let usable things end up at the disposal station, contributing to our garbage.

During the first few years of the "Greenwood Garage Sale" day, "Phinney Neighbors in

### ***Here's a tip-***

*Distribute your garage sale guide via neighborhood libraries and community centers. Be sure to provide these locations with information about other distribution sites in case they run out of copies.*

Action," a neighborhood community service group, drove around at the end of the sale picking up unsold left over items to transport to charity. This was a labor intensive activity and volunteers had difficulty determining which items were really usable and which should be left behind with the owner. We approached Seattle Goodwill about co-sponsoring the "Greenwood Garage Sale" and providing a donation station for usable leftovers.

The Seattle Goodwill store is one of the largest Goodwill thrift stores in the United States, and funds raised from thrift store sales support Goodwill's GED preparation classes, literacy training, ESL and vocational classes.

Goodwill was able to fill two-and-a-half container trucks with donated items during the "Greenwood Garage Sale" day. Goodwill employees also used their expertise to determine which items they could accept for resale and which they could not. Participants who donate get a receipt for their tax records.

Perhaps your organization already has a relationship with a local nonprofit agency. Involve them as co-sponsors and include them in planning to insure maximum usefulness of your neighborhood's resources.

The Home Clean Up Program sponsored by Seattle Public Utilities is another important resource. Check with them about dates for your neighborhood's clean up program. Free passes are often provided to recycling and disposal stations. Free dumpsters may even be available for your event clean up if you contact the Home Cleanup Coordinator, 684-7666.

Approach local newspapers regarding co-sponsorship of your event. Neighborhood papers can boost publicity and may consider publishing your garage sale guide as an insert. Keep in mind that other newspapers may not print your press releases if your event is co-sponsored by their competition, but the

classified advertising you purchase may offset that problem.

Your neighborhood garage sale is sure to impact businesses in your area. PNA discovered that a one-day influx of garage sale shoppers means many footsore folks will seek a place to purchase lunch or something cool to drink. Businesses can turn the traffic to their advantage by planning sidewalk sales in coordination with the event. Seek co-sponsorship from your local Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber can urge member businesses to organize special sales, purchase ads in your Garage Sale guide publication, offer coupons to shoppers and post flyers advertising the event in their shops.

## Building a budget

A neighborhood garage sale day can be a great fundraising event both for your organization and for participants. Everyone wins! Start your planning with a budget so you can set some realistic fundraising goals.

Your organization can raise funds several ways;

**Participant fees** - Each household will pay a fee to participate in the neighborhood garage sale day. For this fee, you provide publicity and a listing of their sale in a garage sale guide publication, signs for their yard and classified advertising. Fees can range from \$10 to \$15 per household and discount rates can be offered to businesses holding sidewalk sales, block sales with three or more houses on the same block, non-profits, schools or churches holding rummage sales. For the cost of one classified notice in a community paper, your participants will receive much more



publicity than if they had organized a sale on their own. How much you charge per participant will depend on your estimate of costs.

**Flea market booth space** - If you have space available to you, you can also offer flea market space to folks without a yard, such as apartment dwellers. The Wedgwood Community Council has sponsored a community flea market event for several years. The Wedgwood Presbyterian Church donates use of their parking lot on a Saturday. Over 30 participants pay \$10 each for a 10x10-foot space.

**Display advertising sales** - Sell ads for local businesses in your garage sale guide

publication. Local restaurants and convenience stores may want to offer coupons to market to shoppers on the day of the sale. Other possible advertisers include realtors, repair shops, antique dealers, churches.

***Here's a tip-***

*Maintain a list of everyone registering for flea market space. Once spaces are all sold, keep a wait list in case there are last minute cancellations. Set a refund deadline.*

**Day of event sales**

- You may also want to have a sale at the event. PNA has had a booth at the "Greenwood Garage Sale" flea market to sell used items. The Wedgwood Community Council offers baked treats and cold pop at their sale day. The Mukilteo Business Association, sponsor of the "Great Mukilteo Garage Sale Day," sells hanging flower baskets at a special information

## Costs

The major costs in sponsoring the event are time and publicity. Try to assemble a team of volunteers to do the event organizing. Publicity costs include the following:

- ✦ Printing a "garage sale guide" for shoppers (see page 13)
- ✦ Photocopying and mailing information and registration forms to potential participants
- ✦ Photocopying and mailing press releases to media (faxes and email can also be used and may save money)
- ✦ Purchase of classified or display advertising in newspapers
- ✦ Copying or printing flyers and signs

A "miscellaneous" budget category may also be necessary. The PNA found that we had to rent temporary no-parking signs to facilitate transportation on the day of the event. We also invested in a large vinyl banner for display outside our community center. This banner can be used year after year.

### ***Here's a tip-***

*Line up a volunteer to take plenty of photos at your first garage sale event. These photos can be included with future press releases.*

# Timeline

The sample timeline (below) supposes that you will allow at least three months planning time before your event. If you do not have at least three months, consider scaling back the scope of your event.

## Timeline

### Month One

- ☐ Set the date for your event
- ☐ Approach co-sponsors
- ☐ Finalize budget and fees
- ☐ Mail 1st press release announcing date and deadline for registration
- ☐ Distribute registration form

### Month Two

- ☐ Prepare addresses and ad descriptions for garage sale guide
- ☐ Mail confirmation letters to participants
- ☐ Distribute flyers & posters
- ☐ Purchase classified ads
- ☐ Begin production of guide
- ☐ Mail 2nd press release

### Month Three

- ☐ Complete guide production
- ☐ Print guide
- ☐ Schedule volunteers
- ☐ Distribute guides
- ☐ GARAGE SALE DAY EVENT!
- ☐ Clean up
- ☐ Evaluate

## Involve everyone

Participation is the key to a successful neighborhood garage sale day. "Greenwood Garage Sale Day" started with about 80 participants. By 1998, 130 households/groups participated. Get the word out early to potential participants. You can notify your community with the following:

- ✦ Mail the media press releases with information about the event date and how to sign up as a participant.
- ✦ Bulk mail a registration form to your organization's membership (see sample, pg. 22).
- ✦ Canvas key areas of your neighborhood by dropping registration forms house-to-house.
- ✦ Phone or mail area churches, non-profit organizations and schools who might want to sponsor large rummage sales.

Establish a deadline for registration. You will

### ***Here's a tip-***

*Include large rummage sales and flea markets. Churches and schools should be encouraged to organize a sale to benefit their cause. Consider offering such organizations a discounted fee.*

*sample participant sign*

# Greenwood Garage Sale Participant

Sponsored by  
Phinney Neighborhood Association



need time before the sale to assemble and print your garage sale guide. PNA mails a registration form out to its 1200 member families and all past garage sale participants. When the registration form and fee are returned, PNA mails a confirmation letter with information about the garage sale guide distribution, charity donations after the sale, an 8 1/2 x 11 inch sign for their yard and an event flyer to be posted.

## Garage Sale Guide

Your event's guide should include two important components: a map of the sale area and addresses of participating sales. The PNA has published the "Greenwood Garage Sale Guide" in a variety of formats from quick copy to newsprint. Appearance is secondary to readability and making sure that you have enough copies to go around.

We also provide a short description of each sale (limit ten words or less.) We reserve the right to edit all descriptions. Participant addresses are sorted and listed by location. Block sales, rummage sales and flea markets may be boxed or typed in bold face.

In 1998, PNA included a special section on re-use with phone numbers of local charities who will pick up used goods, as well as resources for hard to recycle items such as mattresses, carpets and tires, (see sample, pg. 25). The guide can serve the dual purpose of providing a wonderful opportunity to share information that can improve the quality of the environment in the neighborhood.

Plan to distribute your guide as broadly as possible to shoppers. The "Greenwood Garage Sale Guide" is available at the Phinney Neighborhood Center, the Greenwood Public

Library and the City of Seattle Community Service Center one-day prior to the sale. On the sale day, copies are stacked outside the Phinney Center early in the morning and delivered to all the large rummage sales for distribution. Volunteers also hand out guides at the flea market.

## Sample garage sale guide

### Greenwood Garage Sale Day

**April 25, 1998 • 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Sponsored by the Phinney Neighborhood Association and support from the Low & Moore Program, Seattle Public Utilities & Seattle Goodwill



Greenwood Cemetery

Woodland Park

### Guide & Area Map

**North of Greenwood**

1000 1st Ave N  
Phinney & Taylor (Antiques) 1000  
Phinney, Seattle 98107  
1000 1st Ave N  
Phinney & Taylor (Antiques) 1000  
Phinney, Seattle 98107

**West of Greenwood**

1000 1st Ave N  
Phinney & Taylor (Antiques) 1000  
Phinney, Seattle 98107

**South of Greenwood**

1000 1st Ave N  
Phinney & Taylor (Antiques) 1000  
Phinney, Seattle 98107

**East of Greenwood**

1000 1st Ave N  
Phinney & Taylor (Antiques) 1000  
Phinney, Seattle 98107

**South of Greenwood**

1000 1st Ave N  
Phinney & Taylor (Antiques) 1000  
Phinney, Seattle 98107

## Advertising

Your major contribution as organizer of the event is to provide your participants with better outreach than they would have had if they organized a garage sale on their own.

The PNA has used the following publicity strategies to advertise the "Greenwood Garage Sale Day:"

**Press releases** - We send two or three press releases to local media including newspapers, TV and radio. The first release alerts people to the date of the event and tells

potential participants how to register. A second release is sent out closer to the event to notify potential shoppers. This release contains information on the number of garage sales which will be held and where to get copies of the garage sale guide (see samples, pg. 20 & 21).

Include any information about unusual sales, celebrity appearances, entertaining happenings, etc.

**Classified advertising** - PNA purchases classified ads in the weekend garage sale section of the major Seattle dailies, local neighborhood weeklies, and weekly shoppers (such as The Little Nickel). Classified ads

### **Here's a tip**

*Don't release the garage sale guide too early. Make it available a day ahead - no more. Inconsiderate bargain hunters may start early and harass your participants if the address map is available too far in advance.*

are an important part of the budget because newspapers may or may not print items from a press release, but they will always print a classified ad. Garage sale shoppers usually peruse the classified section for sale listings.

**Signs, banners, flyers and newsletters** - PNA mails each participant an 8 1/2 x 11 inch photocopied sign to post on the day of the sale. (See sample, pg. 12.) These signs help build community and support for the event (and single out free loaders who participate without registering). Only one sign is mailed out to participants with their confirmation letter, sellers can pick up additional signs and flyers at the Phinney Center.

Flyers (8 1/2 x 11 inch and a limited number of 11x17 inch) are printed and distributed for posting in area businesses. A large vinyl sign is hung up outside the Phinney Neighborhood Center.

Don't forget to make use of your own organization's newsletters. News articles and reminder notices about the sale are published in The Phinney Ridge Review, a newspaper published quarterly by the PNA, and in a monthly calendar sent out to all members of the organization.

**Internet access** - PNA publishes a special "Greenwood Garage Sale Day" page on our Internet website during the month of April.

***Here's a tip-***

*Which ad will attract more shoppers: "Small roll-top desk, fishing rod and lure set" or "Lots of great stuff"? Garage sale ads with specific descriptions, listing a few items, attract more attention than general ones.*



E-mail announcements are sent to other organizations with website calendars, such as the City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods. Notify Seattle Public Utilities by calling the Adopt-A-Street Hotline at (206)684-7647.

## **Do it safely...**

As you plan your event, consider any safety hazards that might come up. If you have obtained permission to use a vacant lot or parking lot for a flea market, do you have adequate insurance coverage should there be an accident?

Do you have enough volunteers to set up, supervise, direct traffic and clean up safely? Are there potential traffic hazards in the neighborhood that might require volunteer traffic monitors, signs or barricades?

Include information about the dangers of toxic materials in your mailing to participants, so sellers do not include toxics such as pesticides or partially used cans of paint in their yard sale. Find out more information about household toxic materials and their safe disposal by calling the Seattle King County Health Department's Hazardous Waste Hotline: (206)296-4692.

## **Don't forget to clean up!**

Your neighborhood garage sale day should improve your community and your organization. If you've planned well, you made advance arrangements to provide for contributions to charity and encourage re-use and recycling. The City of Mukilteo sponsors a

citywide clean-up in the week following the "Great Mukilteo Garage Sale" event.

The Wedgwood Community Council focuses special effort on recruiting volunteer help for the clean-up phase of their sale day. Since the sale takes place in a parking lot donated by a local church, the community council makes sure it has the person-power to leave the parking lot as clean as they found it.

Your conscientious efforts will promote your community's ownership of the event and encourage sponsorship and greater participation.

*Sample 11x17 poster*

## **Greenwood Garage Sale Day**



Over 100 garage sales in the Greenwood area AND a flea market at the Phinney Neighborhood Center, 6532 Phinney Ave N.

**Saturday, April 25  
9 am - 3 pm**

Map & Garage Sale Guide available April 24 & 25 at Phinney Neighborhood Center, 6532 Phinney Ave N, Greenwood Library, 8016 Greenwood N, Greenwood Neighborhood Service Center, 8556 Greenwood Ave N.

**Sponsored by  
the Phinney Neighborhood Association**

## How did we do?

Evaluation is an important component of any community garage sale day. It is especially important for your group's first garage sale event. Create an evaluation plan so you can decide whether to repeat the event the following year and how to make it better.

PNA mails a form to each "Greenwood Garage Sale" participant, asking for his or her feedback and ideas. We learn significant ways to improve publicity, guide distribution and we get a sense of which participants were successful in the sale. (See sample evaluation form, pg. 24.)

### ***Here's a tip-***

*One person should be responsible for collecting all participant registrations and recording payments. Develop a clear system so no participant's address will be accidentally left out of the garage sale guide.*

An evaluation plan can be very simple. If you can't afford to mail forms to participants, consider doing a small telephone sample or ask volunteers to distribute evaluation forms door to door on the day of the sale as they are shopping.

After the sale day, arrange to meet with all your co-sponsors to celebrate and review the event while it is fresh in everyone's mind. Take the opportunity to confirm the date for next year's neighborhood garage sale day.

# Sample press release #1

## PRESS RELEASE

**DO NOT USE AFTER April 6, 1998**

**CONTACT: (your name and  
phone number here)**

## **ANNUAL GREENWOOD GARAGE SALE DATE SCHEDULED**

The annual Greenwood Garage Sale Day will be held on Saturday, April 25, 1998. Last year 120 households and organizations held rummage sales, garage sales or yard sales in the Phinney-Greenwood area. The sales attracted over 2000 shoppers and resulted in happy bargain hunters, pleased sellers who were able to clean out unwanted items, and fewer additions to the landfill since items are being reused by new owners.

The Greenwood Garage Sale Day is sponsored by the Phinney Neighborhood Association, which handles the advertising and publicity and publishes a *Garage Sale Guide* with a map showing the location of all sales. There is a \$12 fee to participate as a seller. Participants also receive signs for their yard.

This year will include two new features: a flea market and conveniently located Goodwill Industries donation station. People who don't have a location for a sale, such as apartment dwellers, can rent a space at the outdoor flea market held in the Phinney Neighborhood Center parking lot. The flea market fee is also \$12 and spaces are limited. Goodwill Industries will be providing a donation station in the Phinney Center parking lot so sellers can easily donate unsold items at the end of the day. These donations will help support Goodwill's job training and literacy programs for low-income people.

The deadline to register your garage sale or get a flea market space and be listed in the *Garage Sale Guide* is April 6, 1998. Call (xxx)xxx-xxxx for an application.

## Sample press release #2

### PRESS RELEASE

**DO NOT USE AFTER April 25, 1998**

**CONTACT: (your name and  
phone number here)**

### **GREENWOOD GARAGE SALE DAY IN FIFTH YEAR**

Bargain hunters and garage sale "junkies" from throughout the city will stream into the Greenwood/Phinney area seeking treasures during the fifth annual Greenwood Garage Sale Day, Saturday, April 25, from 9 AM to 4 PM. Over 100 households will participate and four organizations will hold large rummage sales. In addition, a flea market with multiple stalls will be located in the parking lot of the Phinney Neighborhood Center at 6532 Phinney Ave. N.

Last year over 2000 shoppers came to the area for this event. According to sellers, items such as kayaks, an antique iron bed, vintage stove, computers, fountains and homemade donuts can be found. Greenwood Elementary, Small Faces Child Development Center, Friends of Ryther Child Center and Greenlake Presbyterian Church will be sponsoring rummage sales.

This year new features have been added. The event will emphasize the value of "re-use" of consumer goods by giving them a second life. Goodwill Industries will provide a donation station to accept usable items not sold during the event. The donation station will be located in the lower parking lot of the Phinney Center from 2 PM to 6 PM.

A free official guide with area map and listing for all sale locations, will be available April 24 and 25 at several locations including the Phinney Neighborhood Center, the Greenwood Library at 8012 Greenwood Ave. N. and the Greenwood Neighborhood Service Center, 8505 Greenwood Ave. N. The event is sponsored by Phinney Neighborhood Association. For more info or to volunteer, call (xxx)xxx-xxxx.

## Sample participant registration form

### Phinney Neighborhood Association's Greenwood Garage Sale Day

Planning a garage sale or sidewalk sale this spring? Why not schedule it for Saturday, April 25th and be a part of the Phinney Neighborhood Association's Fifth Annual Garage Sale Day?

Greenwood Garage Sale Day is a community-wide garage sale day with numerous sale sites throughout the neighborhood. Individual participants set up their own garage sale and plan it for April 25th, the designated garage sale day, providing an opportunity for better publicity for everyone's sale and luring more shoppers to the area. **This year we will offer Flea Market spaces** in our parking lot for those who don't have a space for their sale. Last year over 2000 shoppers came to our neighborhood for this event.

Publicity is handled by the PNA and includes Garage Sale Day signs for all participants, a Garage Sale Guide listing all participants, advertising in local papers and press releases to area newspapers and radio stations.

To participate fill out the form below and send it, together with the \$12 fee, to the PNA, 6532 Phinney Ave. N., no later than April 6th. If you have any questions, please call (xxx)xxx-xxxx.

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(Detach here and mail to: PNA, 6532 Phinney Ave. N., Seattle, WA 98103)

### 1998 Greenwood Garage Sale Day Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check here if you are applying for a Flea Market space (spaces are limited)

\*My ad should read (limit to 10 words or less):

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\*Ad may be edited if necessary. Please note, individual ads are not provided for Flea Market participants.

Make checks for \$12 payable to PNA and return by April 6, 1998

## Sample confirmation letter

April 13, 1998

Dear Garage Sale Participant,

Thank you for being a part of the 5th annual Greenwood Garage Sale Day, Saturday, April 25th. We have had an excellent response, including several rummage sales and flea market booths.

The Garage Sale Day is being advertised in the *North Central Outlook* and four other Pacific Publishing newspapers, the *Ballard News Tribune*, *Seattle Times/P.I.*, *The Facts*, *Seattle Chinese Post* and the *Little Nickel*. Posters are being distributed in the area, and press releases have been sent to local papers and radio stations.

Word of mouth is probably the most effective form of advertising. Tell your friends and relatives about Greenwood's "garage sale heaven." Post the enclosed flyer at your job or other location.

Official Garage Sale Day signs are enclosed. If you would like more signs or a copy of the *Garage Sale Guide*, guides will be available at the Phinney Center, 6532 Phinney N., Friday, April 25th and Saturday, April 26th (extra signs can be picked up any time during that week). The Center is open from 9:00 am - 10:00 pm, Monday through Friday, and 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Saturday.

We are excited to have received a grant from Seattle Public Utilities, "Less is More" program to support Greenwood Garage Sale Day. The grant will enable us to provide buyers and sellers with information about other ways to promote re-use.

What if you have leftovers after your sale? Consider making a donation to Goodwill Industries. Goodwill will provide a donation station in the lower parking lot of the Phinney Center. The donation station will be open from 2:00 pm to 6:00pm on Saturday. I am enclosing a brochure describing the kinds of items you can donate. It is for a good cause - supporting literacy education and job training programs for low income neighbors. All donations to Goodwill are also tax deductible.

Good luck with your sale! Feel free to call us if you have any additional questions and keep your fingers crossed for sunny weather.

Sincerely,

# Sample evaluation form

April 28, 1998

Dear Garage Sale Participant,

Thank you for participating in the fifth annual Greenwood Garage Sale Day, Saturday April 25th. We would like to get your feedback about the event. Please complete the survey below, fold and mail back to the Phinney Neighborhood Association (The address is on the back.) Your ideas will help us improve future Garage Sale Days.

## Greenwood Garage Sale Day 1998 Survey

1. How did you participate in GGS? (check all that apply) ☐ individual shopper ☐ rented flea market space ☐ individual garage sale ☐ organization/business rummage sale ☐ other: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Did you feel the event was successful? ☐ yes ☐ no
3. Do you think your sale was more successful as a part of the Garage Sale Day than if you had done it on your own? ☐ yes ☐ no
4. Estimate of sales - How much did you gross on your sale? ☐ under \$50 ☐ \$50 - \$100 ☐ \$100 - 200 ☐ \$200 - \$300 ☐ over \$300
5. What would you have done with your unwanted items if you had not participated in Greenwood Garage Sale Day? ☐ thrown away ☐ donated to charity ☐ had a garage sale at a different time ☐ kept items
6. Would you participate in Greenwood Garage Sale Day again next year? ☐ yes ☐ no
7. Did you use the Goodwill donation station in the Phinney Center parking lot on April 25 & 26? ☐ yes ☐ no
8. What suggestions would you have for improving Greenwood Garage Sale Day? (continue on back)

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Name (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Thanks so much for your response. Please fold, stamp and mail to the address on back.



## Sample Reuse Guide

It is not too late to get rid of all your unwanted "stuff!" Take advantage of ways to avoid throwing away something which could be reused:

### Charitable pick-up services

The following groups will send a truck to your home to pick up donations:

- ✦ St. Vincent de Paul (206) 767-3835
- ✦ Salvation Army 1-800-958-7825
- ✦ Sharehouse (206) 525-1213
- ✦ NW Center for the Retarded (206) 285-5441
- ✦ Community Services for the Blind (206) 767-2177
- ✦ Union Gospel Mission (206) 723-5700

### **Here's a tip-**

*Does your organization have a website on the internet? Publish an article featuring "tips for garage sale shoppers" on your site. Reproduce your participant map via the web.*

### Donation stations

Goodwill has several locations around the city. Call (206) 329-1000.

### Hard to recycle items

Certain items are very hard to recycle or re-use: mattresses, futons and rugs. Mattresses cannot be taken by most charities unless they are in excellent condition. (St. Vincent

de Paul does have the ability to take mattresses and re-condition them.) Carpets from the homes of individual homeowners are usually not reusable.

One of the best ways to avoid having to take these types of items to the transfer station, where they eventually end up in the landfill, is to think ahead when you purchase new. When you are shopping for new mattresses, futons, tires or carpets, inquire whether the dealer will take your old ones. If they won't - purchase elsewhere!

Also, look in the phone book business pages for the following categories: used appliance dealers, recycling, salvagers and tire retread, to find businesses who may be able to re-use your unwanted items.

**Toxic materials: (includes paints)**

♣ Hazardous Waste Hotline (206) 296-4692

**Latex paints only:**

♣ Miller paint (206) 784-7878

♣ Rodda paint (206) 547-7405

**Tires:**

♣ Recycling and Disposal Station (206) 684-3000 (maximum of 4 tires per load)

♣ Washington Tire Recycling (253) 536-1196 (passenger vehicles only)

**Building materials:**

♣ Second Use Building Materials (206) 763-6929 (plumbing and building materials. Call about specific items)

## Acknowledgements:

Your Guide to Planning a Neighborhood Garage Sale Day was written by Leslie Cossitt. She coordinated the 1998 "Greenwood Garage Sale Day" for the Phinney Neighborhood Association and is the PNA's Education and Scheduling Coordinator. Editor Ann Bowden was the originator of the first "Greenwood Garage Sale Day". She is the PNA's Development Coordinator.

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